CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently amended) In a distributed system including a plurality of redundant

components, a method for performance by a first redundant component, comprising:

transmitting information particular to the first component to other components in the

plurality of redundant components, the information relating to one or more criteria according to

which a <u>currently-active</u> leader component is to be determined;

receiving information from the other components particular to the other components and

relating to the one or more criteria according to which the <u>currently-active</u> leader component is

to be determined; and,

determining whether the first component is the <u>currently-active</u> leader component by

comparing the information particular to the first component with the information particular to the

other redundant components<u>,</u>

<u>wherein, if the first component determines that it is not the currently-active leader</u>

<u>component, the first component does not know which component of the other components is the</u>

<u>currently-active leader component.</u>

8.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising periodically repeating the method.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the transmitting the information particular to the first component comprises transmitting age information particular to the first component, and the receiving the information particular to the other components comprises receiving age information particular to the other components.

11-12. (Canceled)

13.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:

    a plurality of redundant components; and,

    a currently-active leader component elected from the plurality of redundant components by way of a weak leader election approach.

14-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the determining whether the first component is the <u>currently-active</u> leader component comprises determining whether the first component is an oldest component.

19.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 13 wherein the <u>currently-active</u> leader component elected by way of the weak leader election approach comprises an oldest component in the plurality of redundant components.

20.   (Currently amended) In a computer system including a plurality of redundant components, a method for electing a <u>currently-active</u> leader component, comprising:

exchanging <u>currently-active</u> leader election criteria information among the plurality of redundant components; and

at each component in the plurality of redundant components:

(a) determining whether the component is the <u>currently-active</u> leader component, based on the <u>currently-active</u> leader election criteria information; and

(b) repeating the determining whenever the component detects an occurrence of a failure possibly affecting the <u>currently-active</u> leader component,

wherein, if the component determines that it is not the currently-active leader component, the component does not know which other component in the plurality of redundant components is the currently-active leader component.

21.. (Previously added) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

periodically repeating the method.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the exchanging currently-active leader election criteria information comprises exchanging age information.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the determining whether the component is the currently-active leader component comprises:

determining whether the component is an oldest component; and

if the component determines that it is the oldest component, concluding that the component is the currently-active leader component.

24.   (Previously added) The method of claim 22 wherein the exchanging age information

includes exchanging information regarding how long each component in the plurality of

redundant components has been online.

25. .   (Previously added) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are

redundant instances of a daemon.

26.   (Previously added) The method of claim 25 wherein the daemon is a system

management daemon.

27.   (Previously added) The method of claim 25 wherein the daemon is a power line

monitoring daemon.

28.   (Previously added) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are

redundant executing processes.

29.   (Previously added) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are

redundant class objects.

30.   (Previously added) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are

redundant devices in an automation system.

31.   (Previously added) The method of claim 20 wherein the redundant components are

redundant nodes in a network.